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NORTH CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT EMBRACES NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR FASTER, SAFER RESPONSES TO EMERGENCIES

Electronic Emergency Pre-Plans and Mobile Computers with CommandScope Keep Emergencies from Developing into Disasters

North Charleston, SC (Oct. 27, 2008) – The North Charleston Fire Department (NCFD) announced today it is implementing new software, CommandScope Mobile Pre-Plan by RealView, to access critical building information whether at the fire station, en-route to or at the scene of an emergency. Twelve fire stations and at least 22 vehicles will be equipped with new computers and CommandScope (www.commandscope.com), which will allow firefighters to view critical electronic pre-plan information such as location maps, floor plans and photographs, all of which can be viewed on a vehicle driving to respond to a 9-1-1 call. This eliminates time spent looking for paper plans and guesswork upon arriving at the scene, allowing firefighters to be immediately attentive to specifics of the emergency.

“We can pull up electronic pre-plans on the fire truck’s mobile computers, seconds after learning about an emergency,” said James Langdon, technology manager and fire engineer with the NCFD. “Traditionally, we couldn’t access pre-plans until we got to the scene, and then it could take us up to an hour to locate building information – which was often outdated anyway – in large paper binders. With CommandScope, we retrieve updated information within seconds, which is exactly what we need to save buildings and lives.”

CommandScope is compatible with the municipalities’ computers and can even use tablet PCs to update information in a quick and efficient method. In addition to North Charleston, CommandScope is used by fire departments across the U.S., including in the greater Chicago area, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Getting the Community Involved

More than 4,000 businesses in North Charleston will have detailed pre-plans included in the CommandScope database. Members of the fire department are currently inputting building data, and the NCFD is working with RealView and the City Council to activate CommandScope Connect, a secure Web portal, which permits the business to update details on their pre-plans through an online account. In addition, the NCFD plans to work with specific companies that house hazardous materials to input a procedural plan that can be stored in the CommandScope database.

According to David Howorka, executive vice president at RealView, NCFD also plans to work with RealView to allow North Charleston residents to submit pre-plan information about their homes via the Web. This is particularly important in instances where someone might be handicapped or bedridden, and will help first responders quickly identify top priorities when they enter a home. Long-term, NCFD would like to roll out the CommandScope county-wide so dispatch services and other emergency services will all have access to the same information.

About CommandScope

CommandScope Mobile Solutions provide first responders with immediate access to critical property data. RealView CommandScope's smart client architecture provides interoperability to other fire departments as well as mutual aid responders and police departments, permitting it to be viewed on any mobile data computer even without an Internet connection. This is very much in line with today's Homeland Security policies and recommendations.

CommandScope features include:

- Fast, accurate and easy-to-use pre-plans with instant retrieval when and where first responders need it most.
- "Field Update Capabilities" so emergency pre-plans are always up-to-date.
- Ability to attach drawings, plans and photographs.
- Secured interoperability allowing other authorized departments to access pre-plans during an emergency.
- Ability to establish a safe fire ground.

- Integration with Computer Aided Dispatch programs.
- CommandScope Connect's Web portal is available for businesses and homeowners to provide pre-plan information directly to the fire department; this module can also be utilized as a potential revenue generator for the department.

About RealView, LLC

RealView, (www.RealViewLLC.com) a technology company based in Chicago, provides mobile software solutions for numerous verticals including real estate, retail, education, health care, aviation, GSA and emergency services. With easy-to-use software that handles everything from emergency plans to building floor plans, RealView users can update and share information in real time rather than going through a typical paper-and-clipboard process. RealView helps building professionals and emergency personnel handle everything from day-to-day building operations to serious emergencies.

RealView's software is not only a valuable tool to fire departments. Property owners and managers, insurers, lenders, hotel operators, hospitals, restaurant chains, colleges, universities as well as numerous other venues benefit from RealView Mobile Inspection Software. Many properties have inspections; however, the majority is accomplished with pad and pencil and then are either typed or handed to an administrator to enter into its records.

With RealView Mobile Inspection Program, immediately upon the completion of an inspection on a mobile tablet PC, the results are uploaded and electronically conveyed to those chosen to receive the information, including fire departments and emergency services. It happens without the inaccuracies or delays that often accompany re-typing and data entry, and at considerably less cost, making the software a true "one-step" program. RealView is also a supporter of Green solutions outlined by The US Green Building Council.

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For more information, press only:

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